



## Lesson 5: Goodbye

再见。Zài jiàn.

### LESSON NOTES

In Chinese there are several parting greetings; however, there is one universal phrase that can be used for almost every situation. This universal phrase is Zài jiàn (See you again.). Literally this phrase means, "Again meet." The components that make up this phrase are zài (again) jiàn (meet), and both tones of the words in this sentence are 4th tone, the falling tone. The word jiàn (meet) appears in multiple parting greetings. For example, there is the parting phrase Míngtiān jiàn. (See you tomorrow.) In this phrase, the word zài (again) is replaced with míngtiān (tomorrow), forming the phrase, "See you tomorrow." Jiàn (to meet) doesn't change, and can be used as the basis for forming other parting phrases. For example, if you are meeting your friend at 4 o'clock you can say, Sì-diǎn jiàn. (See you at 4 o'clock.) In short, when used in a parting phrase, jiàn (meet) means "See you," but in Chinese this cannot stand alone. In order to complete the phrase, one must specify time when they will see each other again. If there is a specific time or a general idea of when the two parties will meet next, that time can be used and precedes jiàn (meet).

Specific time (4:30): Sì-diǎn jiàn. (See you at 4 o'clock.)

General time (tomorrow): Míngtiān jiàn. (See you tomorrow.)

If the time of the next meeting is not known, zài jiàn (See you again.) can be used.

In English, the position of first part of the phrase, "See you," is fixed, while what follows changes: "See you tomorrow." "See you tonight." "See you at 2." This is the opposite in Chinese, as the first part of the phrase changes, while the latter part, jiàn, is fixed.

In Chinese Wǎn ān. (Good night!) is used as a final parting phrase at night or before going to bed. The words for evening (wǎn) and peaceful (ān) are paired, meaning peaceful night. This is a common greeting before turning in for the night.

### PHRASES

Chinese Character	Pinyin	English
再见。	Zài jiàn.	See you (later).
明天见。	Míngtiān jiàn.	See you tomorrow.
晚安。	Wǎn ān.	Good night.

## VOCABULARY

Chinese Character	Pinyin	English
再	zài	again
见	jiàn	to meet
明天	míng tiān	tomorrow
晚	wǎn	evening
安	ān	content, calm

## QUICK TIP

When saying goodbye, it would not be unusual for the host of a dinner, or get together, to make time to see you off. In fact, it would not be surprising if this include watching you ride off into the night, sunset, or any other applicable place one drives off into! In fact, Chinese etiquette dictates that it is the host's duty to accompany each guest to the door at the end of the festivities.

## QUICK TIP 2

Gau la. is used when hanging up the phone.